GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5354
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any village free from drought in the drought prone areas even after spending huge amounts on irrigation projects;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conserve water resources;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to popularise the community water conservation projects to reduce the cost of water conservation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) As per the study conducted by Central Water Commission during 1975-82 covering 99 districts in the country, an area of 51.13 million hectare lying in 315 Talukas of these districts was identified to be drought prone. Water, being a State subject, schemes for water conservation, including those benefiting drought prone areas, are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Since the beginning of the planned development, major and medium schemes with utilised irrigation potential of 5.8 million hectare, partially or fully benefit these drought prone areas. Similarly, an irrigation potential of 4.3 million hectare has already been created by the major and medium schemes under construction, which also partially or fully benefit these drought prone areas.

(c) By the end of the Eighth five year plan, about 4291 dams have been taken up in the country. As a result of this, the live storage capacity of the dams completed in the country has since gone upto 177 (BCM) by construction of large dams upto 1995. An additional live storage capacity of 75 BCM will be created on completion of dams, which are under various stages of construction. Proposals to take up additional dams to create a live storage capacity of 132 BCM are also under formulation / consideration. Besides, about 3,76,000 Tanks

(minor dams) and ponds have also been constructed in the country.

To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness water resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in form of central loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. National Water Development Agency have also formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development for meeting requirements of water, in water short areas of the country, which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The implementation of the link proposal would depend on various factors like consensus among the States, preparation of detailed project report after completion of feasibility report and availability of funds, etc.

(d) & (e) Ministry of Rural Development has launched a National Human Resources Development (NHRD) Programme in 1994 al over the country, under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission with the objectives of training at least one grassroot level worker in each village to enable the Panchayati Raj Institutions and communities to take up Operation and Maintenance activities and community participation, related to rural water supply programme and sanitation systems, besides capacity building of the line department in State Governments. Ministry of Agriculture under the National Watershed Development Pfroject for Rainfed Areas also envisages involvement of Non-Government Organisations, Panchayats and other rural institutions.